



## *Rising To the Challenge*

MCCA  
Bids Farewell to  
Chris Giovinazzo  
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Linda Dunphy  
Joins MCCA as  
Interim Executive  
Director

This is a challenging time for child care and early education. The national movement for public pre-kindergarten has led to an increased focus on academics for very young children, new accreditation requirements, and from our Maryland State Department of Education, new and ever-changing regulations for our child care programs and the education of our child care professionals. In the midst of this upheaval, several long-time leaders in state and local early childhood policy are retiring or moving on to new opportunities: our State Superintendent of Education, our County Superintendent of Schools, our County's Manager of Early Childhood Services, and even our own MCCA Executive Director, Chris Giovinazzo.

In this environment, our Board of Directors commissioned an external review of Montgomery Child Care Association this spring. We are using its insights now in a new initiative, *Rising to the Challenge*, to reflect on what we do as an organization, how we are positioned to confront the challenges facing our field, and how we can do even more with the resources we have to advance our mission and advocate for what we know is right for children.

Our organizational review has shown that our families are highly satisfied with our programs and the care their children receive; our staff members love their work and are committed to Montgomery Child Care Association. This is great news—yet we can reach even higher. As we set our strategic priorities in this new initiative, we are raising the bar in all areas.

Our new Interim Executive Director, Linda Dunphy, comes to us with over 20 years' experience in non-profit management, with keen skills in leadership, capacity building, fundraising, strategic and visionary planning, quality assurance and fiscal stewardship. Linda is leading our initiative, and we are off to a great start. We are excited about the changes ahead, and will keep you posted on our progress.

Meanwhile, we will continue to do what we have always done best—nurturing all aspects of your children's growth and development, through warm relationships with caring adults and active, hands-on play and learning—preparing children for school *and for life*. Thank you for your continued support of MCCA.



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## *Farewell to Chris Giovinazzo*

### **MCCA Executive Director 2003-2011**

This May we said farewell to Chris Giovinazzo after 15 years with MCCA, first as our Education Director for eight years, and then as our Executive Director for seven. When Chris took the helm in 2003, one of her first initiatives was to unite even further our 13 very diverse child care programs under one umbrella Association. This brought consistency to everything from our email addresses and stationery to our curriculum and company policies, increasing the visibility of our brand and strengthening our organization.

Chris saw early on the importance of aligning our programs with the Maryland State Department of Education. Under her leadership, we adopted MSDE's preschool accreditation, piloted their school age accreditation, and promoted their Child Care Credential to our staff.

Chris was also a tireless advocate for MCCA and the child care community, speaking out for our interests on critical issues such as child care subsidies, the shift of child care regulation to MSDE, unionization of family child care, and state and local government plans for universal pre-kindergarten. In her new endeavors, we feel certain that Chris' voice will continue to be heard, speaking out for what's right for children and families. Thank you, Chris, for your service to MCCA and our community.

## *Keeping Child Care Affordable*

Almost everyone in our community has been affected by the recession. Budget cuts, furloughs and high unemployment have left families at every one of our centers struggling to afford their child care. But MCCA has been able to help, thanks to generous donations from people like you. Here's what we've done together:

**MCCA's Share-the-Care Subsidy** is by far our biggest financial support to families. In Maryland, government child care vouchers fall so far short of the full cost of care that subsidized families are left with a tuition gap that may be hundreds of dollars a month. At MCCA, families don't pay this difference—we cover the shortfall with donations and other income. So far this year, we have "subsidized the subsidy" for 71 children, a huge increase over previous years.

**The Richard Krampf Summer Adventures Scholarship Fund** helps families afford the budget-breaking jump in tuition from a few hours of after-school child care to the all-day care they need when school is out—and also gives their children an exciting and enriching summer vacation. In its second year, Krampf scholarships have funded *47 weeks* of Summer Adventures, double last year's amount.

**MCCA's Family Emergency Scholarships** give temporary tuition assistance to families experiencing crises such as job loss or serious illness, so their children can remain in the comfort and security of the child care programs they know and love, at a time of great stress at home. So far this year, we've helped 6 MCCA families through difficult times; we know there will be more to come.

**MCCA-COLOMBO  
Annual 5K Race  
And Family Fun Fest**



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***MCCA-Colombo 5K Race & Family Fun Fest***

Our MCCA 5K is the main source of funding for our Family Emergency Scholarships, and another legacy from Chris Giovinazzo. Our first MCCA-Colombo 5K Race took place in November 2004, fulfilling Chris's vision of an annual event that would bring together staff and families from every MCCA center, local businesses, politicians and community members—and, at the same time, raise money for our Family Emergency Scholarship Fund. It worked!

This fall will mark our 7<sup>th</sup> **Annual MCCA-Colombo 5K Race & Family Fun Fest**, and we hope you'll join us. Last year we raised over \$8200 for our Family Emergency Scholarships and we plan to do even better in 2011. We are so grateful to the runners, our MCCA families, staff and volunteers, and to our generous race sponsors who continue to support us in these hard times.

Please mark your calendars for our 7<sup>th</sup> annual race on Saturday, October 29, 2011, at Lake Needwood, Rockville, MD. And check out our website for more details-- registration information will be coming soon, too.



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